

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

**DRAFT**

December 18, 2018

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were Larry Stone, Jon deNeui, Lee Lenth, Chuck Morine, Bob Bente, and Chris Schoen. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

**AGENDA**

Stone moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of a report on planned interpretive signs for the Grau Savanna, and the appointment of a representative from MMF to the board of the Turkey River Recreational Corridor. Schoen seconded. Carried.

**MINUTES**

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 20, 2018, meeting, with the correction to note a \$16.64 payment to Alpine Communications on both Oct. 17 and Nov. 16. Lenth seconded. Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Nov. 20 - Beginning balance \$19,283.08

RECEIPTS

Nov. 23 – from PayPal via CCCB \$23.97

Nov. 26 – donation, Harold & Deanna Krambeer \$1,000.00

Nov. 30 – donation, Scot & Jane Christiansen \$5,000.00

Dec. 6 – donation, Carole Elden \$50.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$6,073.97

## EXPENSES

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Nov. 30 – bridge lighting event, Jane Metcalf | \$27.36     |
| Dec. 17 – Alpine Communications               | \$16.64     |
| Dec. 17 – Allam Clayton Elec Coop             | \$45.89     |
| <br>  |             |
| TOTAL EXPENSES                                | \$89.89     |
| <br>  |             |
| Dec. 18 CURRENT BALANCE                       | \$25,267.16 |

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1 – Inn Visioning meeting will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019, preceding the regular MMF meeting.

Nikolai has spoken with Rick and Julie Dengler, proprietors of the Barn on the Bluff. He believes that the Inn could be used for similar bread and breakfast facility. Morine pointed out that the Conservation Board was criticized in the past when CCCB proposed building cabins that might compete with private businesses.

The discussion will continue at the visioning session on Jan. 15.

2 – Acquisition of Mederville Creamery scale and Klink's oat cleaner

Lenth and Stone talked with Harry Robbins, who has offered to donate the scale from the Mederville Creamery. Robbins would like to wait until spring and milder weather to remove the scale from an outbuilding.

Stone will contact Mary Klink to work out details of removing the oat cleaner from her property.

3 – LED lights for the bridge

Pollock will be in touch with Jane Metcalf about purchasing LED lights after the holidays, when they may be on sale.

#### 4 – Grau Savanna

Harkrader and Stone have met with Ruth Grau to discuss new and improved signs at the Savanna. The Grau family has agreed to donate up to \$5,000 for new signage. Harkrader is working with a supplier to design signs for the overlook above the Mill, a savanna description, and hardwood trees identification. CCCB also will incorporate some existing wildflower ID signs.

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

#### 1 – Clayton County Foundation for the Future

Nikolai presented a proposed letter asking for donations to the Motor Mill endowment under the Clayton County Foundation for the Future. He noted the need for a long-term source of general funding for operation of the Motor Mill Historic Site.

Morine said he opposes the diversion of possible donations into an endowment, where only 5% of the money typically is available in any one year. There are many projects in need of immediate funding, he said. He said donors would be more likely to give for a specific purpose, rather than to a general endowment fund.

Nikolai countered that people who chose to give to the endowment – perhaps enticed by a 25% state income tax credit – probably would give to MMF projects as well. He also noted that the balance in the Motor Mill endowment needs to reach \$10,000 before we can begin drawing any money out. The current balance is about \$8,000.

Stone suggested that a late-December solicitation might not get a favorable response. He proposed delaying the fund drive until the MMF board can approve specific projects to propose to prospective donors. Donors then could be given the option of contributing to the MMF project fund, or to the long-term endowment.

The board took no further action.

During the discussion, Pollock said Clayton County Engineer Rafe Koopman has proposed seal-coating Galaxy Road from Communia to the Motor Mill Bridge. The estimated cost is about \$300,000. The Motor Mill Foundation may be asked to contribute.

#### 2 – Events for Motor Mill's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019

The board discussed various ways to observe the Mill's sesquicentennial. Options included holding a holiday walk at the site, combining an event with a bridge lighting ceremony, or hosting a separate celebration. The board delayed the decision, but noted the desirability of again coordinating with the Littleport Fire Department's soup supper.

### 3- Motor Mill Historic Site tours for 1019

The board agreed that the Mill should be open every weekend during the tourist season, and that there should be at least two people on duty. Nikolai urged board members to seek additional volunteers.

The board also discussed inviting other groups to hold gatherings at the site to draw additional visitors. That might include a Civil War encampment, a geology workshop, or savanna hikes.

### 4 – Turkey River Recreational Corridor representative

Stone moved to reappoint deNeui to represent the MMF on the TRRC board. Morine seconded. Carried

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Stone moved to adjourn the meeting about 8:58 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary